

Book of the Month

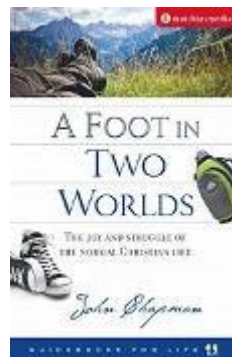
***A Foot in Two Worlds: the joy and struggle of the normal Christian life* by John Chapman**

The Christian life is good—really good. It's a life of forgiveness and freedom and fellowship and joy. But the Christian life can also be genuinely hard. Sickness and suffering still come our way. Sinful habits from the past still dog our steps. Sometimes it feels like an endless grind.

Why is this? Is it meant to be this way? Is there any solution?

In this masterful little book, John Chapman answers these pressing questions by drawing on his profound knowledge of the Bible, and his 60 years experience living as a Christian.

Cost: \$ 9.95 each



St Matt's Services

Sunday 8am	Morning Prayer / Holy Communion
Sunday 9am	St Matts @ School; WPH Public School
Sunday 10am	Multi Generational Family Service
Sunday 9.45am	Chinese Service; Cherrybrook PS
Sunday 11.15am	Asian Congregation; Cherrybrook PS
Sunday 5pm	Contemporary Service
Sunday 7pm	Contemporary Service
Wednesday 10.30am	Traditional Anglican Service

Ministers - All members of the Congregation

Minister	Steve Abbott	Mobile 0417 410 596	9479 3700
Assistants	Nerida Pearl	Young Adults	9479 3702
	Rob Conway	Youth Minister	9479 3704
	Wendy Estall	Pastoral Care/Seniors Minister Mon - Thurs	9479 3707
	Karen Braga	Pastoral Care/Young Women	0401 933 264
	Kenneth Leung	Chinese Minister	0433 766 211
	Kenny Liew	Minister of Asian Congregation	0448 515 408
	Jacki Hellstrom	Children's Ministry Coordinator Tues & Fri	9479 3700
Administrator	Tina Piccione	Monday-Friday, 9am - 2.30pm	9479 3700
Finance	Nicola Fynes - Clinton		9479 3710
Organist	David Parsons		9871 8007

St Matthews Anglican Church

T: 02 9479 3700 F: 02 9479 3777

E: office@stmatts.org.au www.stmatts.org.au



Matt's Matters

Your monthly update on what Matters at St Matt's. Reflecting the generosity of Christ in and to our community.

"You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your **generosity** will result in thanksgiving to God."

2 Corinthians 9:11



March Preaching Calendar

7 March	Unfading Resolve to Mature as Christians	Colossians 1:28-29, 3:15-17
14 March	Untiring Determination to be a Training, Sending and Supporting Church	Luke 10:1-20
21 March	Unfailing Commitment to Doing Church as a Team	Ephesians 4:7-16
28 March	Unflinching Practice Of Graciousness In All Our Relationships	Colossians 3:12-17



If you are feeling new to St Matthew's, please fill out a Communication Card found in the church or hall. One of our ministry team will be in contact with you soon.

Stay for morning tea/supper after the service to meet others who have made St Matt's their spiritual home.



St Matthews Church
West Pennant Hills

www.stmatts.org.au

Minister's Pastoral Message – Matt's Matters March 2010

Dear sisters and brothers,

By the time you read this we'll be about to preach on our fifth core value, 'An Unfading Resolve to Mature Christians'. I have found preparing the first four messages based on our core values both personally challenging and stimulating. I believe that our eight core values will be very important to our life together and the shaping of our priorities in ministry and our philosophy of ministry. In fact I prefer to say these are our '*operational*' core values because they aren't just some ideas we'll ultimately place on a wall, but rather I believe they ought to become self-evident in how we do all disciple making gospel ministry at St Matt's.

This is how core values work; they give expression to what's important, valued and therefore become the lens or filter through which decisions are made. Core values create and shape the culture of a corporation or in our case community, which then impacts how we actually operate and function. Of course when it comes to church values we need them to be those God provides in the Scriptures. We want to be who God calls and has designed us to be, through the operation of the Holy Spirit.

You might ask, 'How did we come to decide on these particular eight values?' Let me explain. Over 18 months ago while spending a day on a spiritual retreat, after a morning in silent prayer, reading and reflection, I sat down and wrote a first draft of what I believed would be essential values for St Matt's to be a truly biblical church. There were about 10 or 11 values in this first draft. Then over the last year or more this draft was reworked through a process of addition, subtraction and assimilation. This task was undertaken by both the staff and Parish Council, as we sought to put our collective minds to what biblical values God would have us adopt, which would then shape our life together. We ended with the following current 8 (Below is the shorter format.):

1. **Unrelenting Prayer to the Father** – Everything we do at St Matt's begins in dependent prayer.
2. **Undying Devotion to the Word of God** – Everything we do at St Matt's flows from our commitment to live out the Bible.
3. **Unreserved Commitment to Love People Impartially** – Everything we do at St Matt's is motivated by the compassion God shows us in Christ.
4. **Unquenched Heart for Evangelism** – Everything we do at St Matt's has at its heart, a desire to connect people to Christ.
5. **Unfading Resolve to Mature Christians** – Everything we do at St Matt's is about making disciples who live out their faith in every aspect of their daily lives.
6. **Unfailing Commitment to Doing Church as a Team** - Everything we do at St Matt's is done interdependently.
7. **Untiring Determination to be a Training, Sending and Supporting Church** – Everything we do seeks to encourage Christians to serve in God's place in God's way.
8. **Unflinching Practice of Graciousness in All Our Relationships** – Everything we say and do is designed to encourage.

These can be found on our website. Because we are now preaching on them, the messages are being placed on our website where they can be downloaded. It is my prayer that this preaching series will begin to shape who we are in Christ Jesus from the inside out. You see it's only as we let the Holy Spirit individually and corporately build these values into our hearts and minds that our practices will change and become aligned with our internal values.

The current wording will probably not be the final form of the core values for even as I've been preaching on them I've slightly refined the wording and content. However, once we've finished preaching through the eight, Rob, one of our wordsmiths, has agreed to work on the text of each value to make sure it is clear, concise and in readily understood language and grammar. Once the 8 are in a final form we will have the full text posted on our website and also have them posted around our church and offices to be a constant reminder of the values we want to shape all we do and say.

Finally I'd also like to say that none of these values actually stands alone in isolation from the others. They are far more organic than that. For example take core value 5 'An Unfading Resolve to Mature Christians'. It ought to be pretty clear that a mature believer is a person who prays constantly (value 1), spends regular time in the Word (value 2), loves people (value 3), boldly shares Christ (value 4), uses their gifts to build the church (value 6), speaks graciously (value 8) and will consider going to train and serve elsewhere (value 7).

I hope that you will join me asking the Father to empower us by his Spirit so that we might truly live out these biblically founded core values, becoming increasingly more and more like our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we reflect His generosity in and to our community. Till next month may we never lack in zeal but keep our spiritual fervour serving the Lord in all things (Romans 12:11).

Steve Abbott



Steve's Prayer Requests:

- Praise and thank the Lord for the provision of Shane Dirks as our new associate minister commencing in May along with wife Rachel and children Levi (3.5) and Mia (1).
- Pray for the Dirk's family as they transition from Dapto Anglican church and prepare to come and serve at St Matt's.
- Pray that God will raise up godly and enthusiastic Christians to serve as Wardens and Parish Councillors for 2010 at our Annual Church Meeting on Tuesday March 16.
- Please keep praying for my and the other preachers edifying preaching on the remaining operational core values throughout March.
- For ongoing wisdom and energy to serve St Matt's well, while we wait the arrival of the Dirk's family and continue short staffed.

St Matt's Diary and Notes



SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCH

14 MARCH 12.30—2.30pm:

If you usually eat alone on a Sunday and wish to join with others for lunch and fellowship, you are invited to our 'Second Sunday Potluck Lunch' in NewLine Cottage. Tea and coffee will be supplied and it would be appreciated if you could bring finger food to share.

Further details:

Pattie (9484 0174) or

Pat (9868 4630).

SAFE MINISTRY COURSE

A Safe Ministry course will be held on 13 March for all those who are going to be involved in children's ministry this year. This is an essential course for everyone volunteering in Sunday School, Scripture, Youth ministries or Matts4kids. Please check the date you were previously trained to see if you need to update your knowledge.

There will be a cost associated with all sessions. Contact Jacki Hellstrom for more details 9479 3700.

BUSH CHURCH AID

All BCA boxes are needed for collection. Please bring your box in by 14 March 2010.

With thanks, Anne

NEW PARISH PRAYER DIARY

The March—May 2010 Parish Prayer Diary is available. Please take a copy in the foyer.

RENTAL ACCOMMODATION NEEDED

Danial, a St Matt's 5pm'er, needs urgent short term rental accommodation for approx 6 months. Phone 0425 822 205 if you can help

MISSION AID GROUP (MAG) -

Suggestions for this month for giving are, toiletries, rubber and disposable gloves, disposable razors and blades, cotton wool, (not buds or balls please) laundry soap and of course we are grateful for any donation. The annual Celebration Day for MAG this year is to be held on Friday 26 March, at St. Thomas' Anglican Church, 4 Morgan St, Kingsgrove. They are celebrating 29 years of supporting the church in Tanzania. The guest speaker will be Faith Blake, the CMS Mission Personnel Secretary. The morning begins at 10am with morning tea, with a display and sales table, a Thanksgiving Service in the church followed by a BYO luncheon with tea and coffee provided. There will be some of us going from St Matt's. If anyone is interested see myself or one of our group and we can arrange transport if necessary. Many thanks for your continued support.

For those going to David Parsons' concert, we look forward to seeing you there.

Roslyn .

**THANK YOU
TO ALL THE
WORKING BEES**



A thank you to all for the effort put into the working bee on Sat 27 February. We accomplished a lot and also had a great time doing it together.

St Matt's Diary and Notes

Pennant Hills & Cherrybrook Christian Education Association.

A few quick points on current developments.

- Graham Castle has commenced as the new teacher employed by the association at Pennant Hills High School. He replaces Natalie Grady, who resigned at the end of last year.
- You are invited to attend the dedication service for our three scripture teachers to be held at St Mark's Anglican, Pennant Hills, from 8pm on 18 March, 2010. Come and support them in their important ministry.
- A new syllabus has been written and adopted for our Christian studies teachers to follow this year, after much consultation. It incorporates the best of the past and meets the needs of the present.
- A recent meeting discussed our views on the trials of an Ethics program to run in conjunction with scripture. We will be seeking more information before deciding upon a position.
- Costs of funding the program have increased, due to award salary adjustments. Parishioners are welcome to make donations through the church envelopes. Your name etc on the back will enable you to receive a receipt for taxation purposes. Thank you for your support.

HELP NEEDED

Anyone interested in helping with the Colin Buchanan Concert on 19 June 2010 or beforehand?



We need help: setting up, packing up; manning stalls, directing traffic, ticket sales, registration, promotion and afternoon tea.

Please email office@stmatts.org.au or phone 9479 3700 if you can help out with these tasks.

Songs of Praise and Pilgrimage: An Easter Celebration

Sunday, 28 March, 2.30pm

Organist: David Parsons

Guest Soloist: David Watson

**Come and praise God in song as we remember the death
and resurrection of Jesus**

Afternoon tea will be provided

**Invitation flyers are available
Don't forget your "Top" hymn card!**

St Matts @ School

Connecting Encouraging Growing

This month we have again been blessed by our Lord's provision, with the news that the search committee has found a new Associate Minister to join us at St Matt's.

We all look forward to welcoming the Dirks family in May and trust they will quickly feel part of the StMatts@School (SMAS) family! This month the SMAS congregation enjoyed a church picnic, which was held at Erlestoke park in Castle Hill. Despite being a rather warm summer's afternoon, the children (and the big children) enjoyed three-legged races, wheelbarrow races and riding around the bike track.

It was a great opportunity to spend some quality time chatting around the BBQ whilst the children played at the playground. A big thank you to the Tobia family, who did such a great job in organising the whole picnic!

Recently we have also been discussing ways to improve the safety of our children after each service at SMAS, and thanks to some suggestions from members of our congregation, we believe that we have made some significant steps in ensuring children do not run off into the greater school premises.

We have also continued to see new families coming along to SMAS, with the school office alerting new families to the presence of our church at the school on Sundays.

In addition we have also seen an increase in the number of home groups at SMAS, with a new men's and couples group starting up this year. Consequently the overall number of people attending small groups has increased.

A number of upcoming events/activities have also been planned, including a "new comers lunch" (April 21) and our first year anniversary celebratory dinner (May 29).

Look out for further details regarding these events to be announced shortly.

St Matts @ School

A Ministry of St Matthews Anglican Church
Reflecting the generosity of Christ.



We need your help !
Catering, leading with all age groups, music,
ideas.

Can you help on 19th April?
If you would like to be involved see Jacki or
leave a message

First team meeting 18th March 7.30-9pm

Would you like to be a Bible Society Representative?



A Bible Society Rep acts as a vital link between the Bible Society and their local church. These individuals receive the materials and promotions from the Bible Society and distribute them amongst their congregation as appropriate. They are volunteers willing to promote the Bible Society's work within their local church.

If you are interested in becoming a Bible Society Representative for St Matt's please contact the office with your details.
office@stmatts.org.au or 9479 3700.

Sign the Chocolate Petition

There is an agreed problem of child labour and at least one recognised solution. What is now needed is a deadline for stopping child labour in the cocoa industry.

A petition form is in the foyer of the church, so please sign it so we can let our Government say "enough" and set a date by which all cocoa/chocolate products in Australia are certified free from the worst forms of child labour.

Second Sunday Potluck Lunch

St Matthew's 2nd Sunday Potluck Lunch began on 14 September 2008. We meet in NewLine Cottage from 12.30pm – 2.30pm. Everyone brings food to share which gives a delicious variety. We started with 14 people, male and female, and each month have had a steady group anywhere from 7 – 17 people. There is a good level of conversation as we sit around in comfortable chairs to share our food and enjoy fellowship.

If you would like to join us each month, please do! The lunch is for people who usually eat alone and who would like to share lunch and fellowship with others. So come along and bring a friend in a similar situation if you would like to do so. Tea and coffee are provided and there is no charge.

A couple of members of the group suggested buying subscription tickets for the Castle Hill Players and a group of us now attend a play on a Sunday afternoon five or six times a year.

Contacts: Pattie , 9484 0174 or
Pat , 9868 4630.



'Under the circumstances...'

When Reality & Passion Collide



Thursday 25th March @ 7.45pm

Speaker: Narelle Jarrett

Archdeacon for Women
Anglican Diocese of Sydney

An evening for the women of St Matthews

Cost: Gold coin donation

CUBBY CLUB 2010



We still have places available in our Cubby Club groups that meet here at church especially on Monday mornings 10-11.45am.

We would love you or your friends or family to come and join us, where children 0-5 years play, try their hand at craft activities, sing and read stories.

We really need more Christian women to volunteer time to this vital ministry in any way.

Contact: Karen Braga 0401 933 264

Karen's Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for the Women's night on 15 March, that the women are encouraged and challenged when they attend the evening together. That it is a good time of fellowship together and they are encouraged by Narelle's talk.
- Pray for the planning of the Colin Buchanan concert, for the logistics and many volunteers offering their help as we are expecting over 250 people.

St Matt's YA Community

The year is getting underway for Young Adults as we head to Summer Exodus on the 5-7 March, and Bible Studies kick off the week after that. Already to date there has been much excitement and enthusiasm to be involved in various ministries and activities of the YA group. In early February we had a "Kick Off Meeting" for the Young Adults where I shared my vision for the ministry from Ephesians 3 & 4, and we talked about the various ministries that Young Adults might be involved in this year – 92 people attended!

Summer Exodus is also going to be biggest camp that YA has ever had with 85 people attending. What an encouraging start to the year!

Nerida's Prayer Points.

- Please pray for the Summer Exodus Camp – that it will be a great time of learning and fellowship, and that people would continue to reflect on and grow from what they learn throughout the year.
- Praise God that he has raised up enough leaders for Bible Studies this year. Please pray for leaders and YA's as they start Bible Study in a week. Please pray that the groups would be places of real community, genuine engagement with God's word, and outreach to the world.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC AT FAGAN PARK 28 MARCH AFTER CHURCH

- Bring your own lunch to BBQ or picnic
- We will have games and races organised



St Matt's Children's Ministry

SRE – Scripture

SRE has begun in our three local Public Schools – West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook on Fridays and John Purchase on Tuesdays.

Twenty seven classes are taught, from Kindergarten to Year 6.

There are twenty three teachers, five assistants/helpers and four relief teachers.

Of these thirty two volunteers, eight are from Cherrybrook Anglican Church and the others from St Matthews.

The curriculum has been designed by Youthworks, a branch of the Anglican

Diocese of Sydney and the material used is called *Connect*. This consists of a teacher's manual and children's workbooks which are paid for by St Matthews and CAC.

This term focuses on the gospels where the children meet Jesus as God's Son, the promised King, who has God's power and invites all to put their trust in Him for forgiveness and life.

Now that the year is under way & university have begun, some of you may have a little unexpected time free. We are looking for someone to take a class of 15 Kindergarten children at John Purchase PS on Tuesdays at 11:30 and also someone to take 18 Year 5 children at West Pennant Hills PS on Fridays at 9:00. Jacki Hellstrom or Pat would be happy to hear from you.

As you are probably aware SRE is facing some challenges this year. You can take a stand by:

1. Praying
2. Being informed
3. Promoting SRE (rather than criticizing the alternative)
4. Being involved in your local schools, eg join the P & C

Thank God for the support of the Principals and staff of our schools particularly West Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook.

Pray that our scripture teachers will sow the seeds in the younger children so that they will always choose SRE.

Pat
Scripture Co ordinator

Jacki's Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the upcoming events in children's ministry – Family picnic in Fagan Park on 28 March, Easter in the Park with Quizworx, Matts4kids on 19 April
- Praise God for a great start to the year in SRE classes and for the answers to prayer for teachers. Continue to pray for SRE remaining in the schools



ACM

Annual Church Meeting

The St Matthews Anglican Church Annual meeting will take place on Tuesday 16 March 2010, 7.30pm. We invite all parishioners to attend the meeting when the Wardens, Parish Council, Parish Reps and Synod Reps will be elected, important reports are read, questions answered and information given about our life together.

Copies of the Annual Financial Statements, year ending Dec 2009, are available in the foyer.

Are you needing prayer?



Is your need related to health, a relationship issue, exam worries or teen troubles. Maybe it concerns financial problems, retirement worries or any number of other issues. Is it someone you love who is needing prayer?

St Matts Intercessory Prayer Network (IPN) is ready to help. This network of Intercessors, chosen by the Senior Minister, will pray for you.

Your request will be kept in the strictest confidence and not discussed with anyone, unless it concerns someone at risk.

To access the IPN, you send your prayer request by email to prayer@stmatts.org.au. If you do not have email, you are invited to phone your request to Wendy Estall on 9479 3707 or if the request is urgent, please phone 0437 885 848.

As your need is met, or as changes take place, you are requested to keep the team updated so that prayer remains appropriate and accurate.

At no time will you be approached by team members over prayer issues, other than the Co-ordinator who may contact you to ask for progress reports, or Pastoral staff who may care for you.

**"Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.
The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" (James 5:16 NIV).**

Pray for those with special needs:

Kia, Jan, Damon, Eileen,
Dudley, Brian,
Moby (Grandson of Keith),
Caroline (Betty's daughter); Jeannine,
Jane, Kevin, Cliff,
Geoff & Margaret,
Stan, Bev;
Esther; Rob (Kim's father).



st matts youth update

Give thanks for Summer Madness on the Australia Day weekend. Ninety kids attended, and it proved to be another great start to the year.

Praise God for Ben, Andrew, Chris, Andrew and Gareth as they all played critical roles in the running of the camp.



So far this year we have been getting approximately 170 youth attending on Friday nights, and around 22 kids on Sunday mornings.

Praise God for the following people who are currently (ie 2010) studying at Bible College. All of these folk either grew up through St Matt's Youth as kids or leaders, and have spent a significant portion of their life at St Matt's:

SMBC (Full Time)

Chris (3rd yr)
Mark (3rd yr)
Dave (2nd yr)
Mark (1st yr)
Leigh (1st yr)

Moore (Full Time)

Nick (3rd yr)
Andy (2nd yr)
Scott (1st yr)

SMBC (Part Time)

Matt
Neil
Nick

Youth Dates to keep in Mind:

Last week of Term one youth meetings 19 and 21 March

TMF Camp April 23-26

**For Term Plans, Camp forms and any further info please check
youth.stmatts.org.au or please contact Rob Conway at
rconway@stmatts.org.au.**

Pastoral Care and Seniors' Ministry

February 2010

Meals Ministry: This practical help ministry is a wonderful resource that complements other pastoral ministries and continues to serve our members well. Thank you to those who continue to cook delicious meals and to deliver these to our freezer so that those who visit are able to take a lovely home-cooked meal to the members of our congregations. Please contact Fiona on 98753069, if you would like to make enquiries about this ministry.

Orana News: Evelyn spoke at Orana on Wednesday, 3 March delivering an informative and lively presentation which she entitled, "Arty Facts". Our members gathered after Church at 10.30am and enjoyed fellowship over a delicious lunch and hot coffee.

The April meeting of Orana will host Alan McMahon from Operation Mobilisation who will speak on transforming lives and communities by equipping people to share Christ's love and bring hope to the world.

These Orana monthly gatherings of retired members of our congregations are much appreciated for their networking and encouragement aspects.

Intercessory Prayer Network (IPN): The new Co-ordinators of the IPN will be bringing new opportunities for this ministry to serve our members through confidential intercessory prayer. Those needing prayer are encouraged to email their request to prayer@stmatts.org.au where their request will be forwarded to the network of pray-ers. You will not be contacted about your request, however there will be times when pastoral staff may visit you. Eventually it is hoped that intercessors from all congregations will be represented in the network.

Wendy's prayer Requests:

- Pray that God will bless the work of Kevin and Nancy Harper as they head up this vital ministry to our members.
- Pray for the various Care Ministries, such as Orana, Hesed, Prayer Network, Meals Ministry and Pastoral Care/ Lay Pastoring. Pray that God will bless those who faithfully serve Him through leadership of these ministries and that he will meet the needs of those receiving the 'care'.
- Pray for those who minister to Aged Care Facilities such as ARV, Woodlands, Lutanda Manor and Mawarra Retirement Villages, throughout the year.

WARDENS' UPDATE



Tuesday 16 March at 7:30 pm

Yes, this is when all the congregations of St Matthews meet for the Annual Church Meeting where you elect 2 Wardens and 6 Parish Councillors as well as giving feedback on the way St Matt's went in 2009 and expectations for 2010.

Being a warden or parish councillor is a great way to have a direct say in how we use our finances and how we equip and operate our facilities and engage staff.

So, if you would like to express your views on any aspect of the way St Matthews runs, please come and have your say at this meeting, and if you feel lead to offer yourself as a Parish Councillor or Warden, let someone at the meeting know so you can be nominated.

Finance

Again we have much to be thankful to God for and especially in the generous giving through 2009.

For 2010 we are budgeting for an increase in our average weekly giving to \$14,800. Whilst this figure is an increase of about 8% over last year it was actually achieved in 3 of the last 5 months in 2009. In December, the average weekly giving was an all-time record for St Matts.

Copies of the full 2009 financial statements are available and will be presented to the Annual Church Meeting by the Treasurer on the 16th.

New Web Site

Visits to our new web site have increased by about 25% over the last month, with about 50% of our visitors during the month coming to our site for the first time. Most of our new visitors are checking us out by reading "about us" and finding out about our "services".

The "sermons" page is very popular, as there is a quick link to mp3 copies of our current *Core Values* series.

Have you seen any lost kids lately?

At the moment we have a number of lively kids (under 5) who leave the 10am service on a high. So if you see any of these tiny escapees heading for the carpark could you please assist their parents graciously to recover their wayward offspring intact?

St Matthews Chinese Congregation

Outreach activity – Lunar New Year Celebration 14 February 2010

The Lunar New Year for the Chinese is a day for universal celebration. This time the New Year Day fell on Sunday so the Chinese Congregation had organised a gathering after the service.

First of all, we had a tea time for a chat, especially with some new friends to the Church, while we waited for SMAC to finish their service at about 12 noon. Everybody brought some New Year food to share for a big lunch, like a family. After the meal we had some singing and games. Finally Kenneth and Amy with our elderly brothers and sisters gave out “red packets” symbolising blessings for the coming year.

On this particular Sunday, we invited Rev. Daniel Lai to preach and share his inspiring ministry in Africa. Three newcomers turned to Jesus as their Saviour and two others re-committed to Christian faith to follow Jesus. Praise and glory be unto God.



外展活動 - 新春聯歡會 二月十四日

農曆新年是中國人普天同慶的日子。今年的年初一正是星期日，我們也不例外在教會舉辦了新春活動。主日禮拜後我們先有茶點一方面與新朋友閒談,另一方面等SMAC的聚會結束才一起聚餐。

當天的食物十分豐富有很多賀歲食品，大家都很高興有說有笑真像一個大家庭團聚過年。餐後有唱歌，有遊戲，最後還有Kenneth 和Amy帶領長者派利是祝大家新年蒙福。

今天有賴顯光牧師在我們當中證道，他所分享的信息很感動人，並且有兩人願意接受耶穌基督為救主。在茶點時我們接觸新朋友向他們分享福音；當天共有三位決志信主, 另有兩人重新立志跟隨耶穌。感謝主願榮耀歸與上帝!

Kenneth's Prayer Requests:

- Pray for the combined Chinese churches EE3 evangelistic training and street evangelism on 13/3 and 27/3
- Pray for the newcomers that they will easily settle into our congregation
- Pray for our relationship with the school

'St Matt's Overnight Sea Kayaking trip 2010'....



DETAILS

Attention men & boys: We are hiring 'expedition' double & single sea kayaks, loading them up with camping gear and paddling into the open waters of Lake Macquarie. We'll camp overnight in one of the foreshore camping areas around the lake and then paddle home the next day. We should have plenty of time for a swim and a game of Cricket. On Saturday night we'll enjoy a campfire as well as a short Christian devotion. The kayaking is set at an introductory level so no prior experience is required. Training will be given on the first morning. We could be paddling up to 20km over the two days at a leisurely pace with regular stops which is normally within the ability of a person of average fitness (although expect to be a little stiff on Monday!). Men older than 60 are welcome to attend provided they are confident that their fitness is as good as an 'average 45yr old'. The minimum age for boys is yr 7 in High School and all children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. It's an ideal Father (or Uncle) & Son activity as well as an opportunity for men to invite a mate to share a kayak. The trip will be led by Len Hedges, a qualified Outdoor Educator, Canoeing Instructor and an experienced kayaker who regularly races Ocean skis & Kayaks in marathon and open water events.

When: Saturday 20th March to Sunday 21st March.
(ie, after Soccer grading but before the Competition starts. There could be a trial game scheduled but hopefully missing one of these won't be a drama)

Costs: (note: none of these charges goes to Len personally)

Kayak Hire	\$30 per person (ie, \$60 per double kayak)	(100% of this amount goes to support an Avondale College mission trip to a school in Calcutta, India)
Campsite Fees	Approximately \$15 per person	(actual amount will depend where we end up)
Hire of two man tent and metho stove (if needed)	\$15 per set	Bring your own if you prefer

It's going to be a fantastic weekend - making the effort to attend will be greatly rewarded.

Places are limited. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Len immediately and he will send you full details.

Email hedgeslen@gmail.com phone 94819845. mob. 0407 219 930

MACH 10

Ministry Across Cultural Horizons

Shining the Light on Islam Love the People / Debate the Ideas

APR 2010

Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo & others

Do you want to know how to talk to your Muslim friends?
Do you want to know how to respond to Islam?

Come and hear Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo, Moussa Ghazal, Bernie Power and others.

Topics include *Introduction to Islam, Origins of Islam, Bridges for Reaching Muslims, Theological Conflicts, Ministry to Muslim Women, Diversity and Unity of Islam, Challenge of Islam, What Christians Need to Understand about Islam, How Should Christians Respond to Islam?*

Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo, is an internationally recognised authority on Islam and author of many related books.

Options (some discounts and concessions available):

- Full program: \$150 (including banquet): April 20-24
- Day sessions: \$50 per day
- Evening sessions: \$25 per evening
- Banquet (6pm, April 23): \$20

(Register by April 9, 2010)

The conference will be held in the Toongabbie area. For the registration form, full details of the program and venue contact:
Rev. Mike Wilson: mwilson@pcnsw.org.au or phone (02) 9690 9348.

St Matt's Mission Update

Please pray for link missionaries each week.

7 March - ROB AND LEANNA HAYNES

CMS, Groote Eylandt, NT

- Praise for encouraging time at CMS Summer School with other missionaries and speakers and friends and supporters while we were in Sydney and for interest in Aboriginal ministry.
- We are so grateful that the Lord is moving a significant number of mature Christians to consider future Aboriginal ministry pathways in North Australia, including teaching at Nungalinga College.
- Praise that Nungalinga has just received a significant gift that will relieve some of the pressure in its financial situation
- Give thanks for Rob's and Leanna's mums' provision and faithfulness to our family through prayer, love and support
- Pray for Leanna to fill positions in programs for children across Arnhem Land with suitable Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff and also for staff for the new Bible-in-literacy program at Nungalinga College
- Pray for both of us as we seek to contribute to honourable staff relationships in our workplaces
- Pray for Rev Carol Robertson, deacon at Ngukurr, who is in hospital with TB. She is one of our strong and faithful tutors.

14 March - STEVE & MELINDA MCKERNEY

AFES, Murdoch University, Perth

- Pray that students will come to **EQUIP March 2** and be encouraged and grow in the use of their 'heads, heart and hands' as they are trained each Tuesday night.
- Pray for **MCU Getaway March 8-10** that it's a great chance for MCU-ers to be away together, 'bond' and be encouraged. We will be having Bible Studies in Romans 6 as prep for our 'Abolish Slavery' mission.
- Pray for **'Abolish Slavery' campus-wide mission (March 22-26)** with the help of 14 SMBC students preaching the gospel for 5 solid days!
- Pray for this huge week of intense evangelism – that many will hear and be saved, and that MCU students will be neither afraid nor ashamed but excited and active.



21 March - LINDSAY & LYN WHYBROW

BCA, Hillston, NSW

Please pray for our Bible

- Teach-in for all church leaders in the district, on March 6. Speaker Rev. David Clarke.
- Pray for the Confirmation group of 3 candidates. Confirmation will be very early and we won't be able to complete the course in time, but they have promised to come back in June and finish the course.
- Pray for the Children's Club which will run from 7 to 9 April with the Hoxton Park team.
- Safety, refreshment, and good relations with our daughter, husband and family in Spain, as we go to visit them for 3 weeks from April 19.

28 March - DANIEL & DOMINICA LAI

Wycliffe

- Thank God for Daniel being in Sydney with Dominica in February. Pray for good opportunities to mobilize Christians for mission.
- Pray for journey safety for Daniel's trips to Kenya, Rwanda, Malaysia and Singapore from March to May.
- Pray for a fruitful discovery team to Africa from HK, Canada, and Australia in March and April. Pray for eye-opening visions and passion to serve.
- Pray for our children's studies and future: Nathaniel will continue 2nd year at UNSW (Mechanical Engineering) while Hannah will study Visual Communications in HK until Dec 2010 as her gap year. (She will study Digital Media at UNSW in Mar 2011.)
- Pray for Dominica's time caring for her 84-year-old mother in Sydney. She needs dialysis at home every day.

Mission dates for your diary:

ReachOut e-track at SMBC on 13 March from 6.45-10pm. \$10. Rego at <http://www.reachoutmissions.com.au/e-track-events.html> Main speaker will be Greg Lee (Newcastle Uni AFES worker) on *Cosmic Mission – Preaching Jesus to the Universe*.

Wednesday 3 March, 7.30 - St Matt's Missions Prayer Evening



He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.¹ John

March Find-a-Word

Find all these books of the Bible.

There will be 11 letters left to spell one more book.



Y S N A I T A L A G P S 2 H
M E I W N 1 J O H N N L T S
O T I E H C M A L A C H I N
N S 1 H O H Y P I J O B M A
O A K T J R H H 2 S L P O I
R I I T 2 O T I S I O L T H
E S N A I N O L A S S E H T
T E G M I I M E M E S U Y N
U L S R H C I M U N I M S I
E C O O P L T O E E A A O R
D C S I A E 1 N L G N S M O
1 E P H E S I A N S S 1 A C
A C T S E L C I N O R H C 2
L A M E N T A T I O N S N S



1 Chronicles

1 Corinthians

1 John

1 Kings

1 Samuel

1 Timothy

2 Chronicles

2 Corinthians

2 John

2 Samuel

2 Timothy

Acts

Amos

Colossians

Deuteronomy

Ecclesiastes

Ephesians

Galatians

Genesis

Hosea

Job

John

Lamentations

Malachi

Matthew

Philemon

Thessalonians

Bonus Bible book: _____